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GIVES DATA ON HYDROELECTRIC RESOURCES  
UNDER SIX-YEAR PLAN

TO DOUBLE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT'S CAPACITY -- Rzeczpospolita, No 65, 5 Mar 50

The hydrodynamic resources of the Carpathian tributaries of the Wisla River amount to nearly 2,500,000,000 kilowatt-hours, or an aggregate power potential of nearly 400 megawatts. The Wisla's hydrodynamic resources amount to nearly 5.9 billion kilowatt-hours, or to a power potential of about 800 megawatts. The total potential of Poland's hydrodynamic resources may be estimated at nearly 1,400 megawatts.

Only 10-12 percent of Poland's hydrodynamic resources have been exploited, which is far below the level of exploitation for a number of industrialized Western European countries. France is exploiting 70 percent of its hydrodynamic resources, Germany 80 percent, and Italy 85 percent. The USSR has increased its hydroelectric capacity 100-fold during the past 30 years. Hydrodynamic resources are also highly exploited in Czechoslovakia and Switzerland.

The Central Power Administration created in 1946 was called upon to prepare a vast long-range program of developing the country's hydrodynamic resources and of coordinating this plan with plans for navigation, river regulation, and flood control. The solution of many problems pertaining to the hydroelectric economy is handicapped by the fact that certain aspects of these problems are under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Transportation, Construction, Public Administration, and Agriculture, and of various industries. Each of these ministries considers hydroelectric problems only a part of its activity and fails to give it full attention. The lack of a coordinated program is harmful to the interests of the hydroelectric power economy.

The construction of a thermal power plant is three to five times cheaper than the construction of a hydroelectric power plant. However, for a true comparison of investment costs, it is necessary to consider not only investment in the thermal plant itself but also the investment in coal mines which supply fuel to the power plant. Also, hydroelectric power plants require considerably smaller imports of equipment. Ten times more personnel are required to staff

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thermal plants than hydroelectric plants. Moreover, if the advantages of dam construction to transportation and agriculture are considered, the only valid argument against investment in hydroelectric power plants during the Six-Year Plan is Poland's low degree of mechanization in earthwork and concrete mixing, resulting in a relatively prolonged construction period and high construction costs.

Under the Six-Year Plan, special attention will be given to the construction of dams for flood control and to the intensive exploitation of the sub-Carpathian rivers. The bulk of the investments will go to plants using dammed-up water.

There are two types of hydroelectric plants: those operating on free-flowing water, and those operating on reservoirs of hydrodynamic energy which may be released at will, to relieve the load on other plants during peak demand for power.

The investment program of the Six-Year Plan favors the second type of hydroelectric plants for two economic reasons. Firstly, the unit cost of one megawatt is much lower than for plants using free-flowing water. Secondly, once reserves to handle peakloads are assured, thermal power plants can all be converted to a uniform rate of production without sharp fluctuation. This will make the use of inferior types of coal feasible, resulting in savings of millions of zlotys.

Among other investments, a large reservoir will be built on the Dunajec River. It will be one of the major power projects of the Six-Year Plan. The extent and scope of this project may be gauged by the fact that the construction of a much smaller dam on the Porebka River was in progress for 8 years before the war, without reaching completion.

Many industrial power plants will also be built along the Wisla and Oder rivers under the Six-Year Plan, bringing considerable improvement in the capacity of the Krakow and Dolny Slask Power Associations.

During 1950 - 1955, the installed capacity of Poland's hydroelectric power plants will increase 45-50 percent. In 1955, the installed capacity of these plants will be several times greater than prewar capacity. In 1955, power production will be 165 percent of 1949 production.

TO SEND ELECTRIC POWER TO WEST GERMANY -- Slowo Katolickie, No 4, 4 Feb 50

Poland and Czechoslovakia plan to transmit electric current to West Germany. Poland has offered 300,000 kilowatts and Czechoslovakia 150,000 kilowatts. Experts from Poland, France, US, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, and Austria discussed these offers at a special session of the Electric Power Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe.

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